







Asian Legacy Library

# **Snow on the Mountain: Sustaining Wisdom, Serving the World**

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A HISTORIC NEW CHAPTER

# Preserving the Zanabazar Library Collection

*An expanded effort to safeguard the literary heritage of Mongolia.*

## PRESERVATION TO SERVE THE WORLD

The Asian Legacy Library (ALL) and Zanabazar Buddhist University of Mongolia (ZBUM) are embarking on a vital initiative to digitally preserve and share the ZBUM library, one of the most significant surviving text collections in Mongolia. Despite its importance and value, none of this material has yet been digitized and archived—until now. This project will illuminate centuries of hidden wisdom, for the benefit of Mongolia and the world.

Zanabazar University, situated within Gandan Monastery, is a global hub for the academic study and preservation of Mongolian Buddhism. Since ALL's partnership with Gandan Monastery began in 2023, ALL and Gandan preserved over 22,500 pages of Mongolian ma-







materials. The collaboration with ZBUM is the next phase of this partnership with Gandan and the University, formalized through a newly signed two-year preservation partnership agreement.



## ZANABAZAR: THUNDERBOLT SCEPTRE OF WISDOM

The ZBUM collection comprises approximately five million pages, or 12,500 volumes, of key Mongolian Buddhist texts. The project will focus on preserving manuscripts in the traditional pecha format, emphasizing works by Mongolian authors within the Gelugpa lineage, rare materials, and texts with physical vulnerability. Among these is a set of over 200 volumes of the Mongolian Kangyur, of which only few copies remain on earth.

The name Zanabazar, meaning “thunderbolt sceptre of wisdom,” refers to Venerable Öndör Gegeen Zanabazar (1635–1723), a foundational spiritual authority of Mongolian Buddhism. A leader of the Mongolian culture renaissance in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, his legacy continues as ALL and ZBUM work together to safeguard timeless teachings in a modern digital renaissance of ethics and compassion.

The urgency of this new effort is underscored by Mongolia’s turbulent 20<sup>th</sup>-century history, during which countless manuscripts were destroyed, buried, or hidden in caves to prevent loss. This project seeks to reclaim at-risk heritage and assist in the revitalization of Mongolian literary traditions.







## ACTION PLAN: A SUMMER OF PROGRESS

In June, ALL team members—John Brady (President), Travis DeTour (Digital Archive Engineer), and Dr. Baatra Erdene Ochir (Mongolia Project Consultant)—will travel to Mongolia to establish a state-of-the-art preservation facility at ZBUM. They will install cataloging and scanning stations, as well as essential archival tools, to begin digitizing fragile, significant texts. A new team at ZBUM will be trained to carry out the cataloging and scanning process, ensuring long-term sustainability.

All texts preserved through this initiative will be accessible online via ALL's digital library, raising awareness of Mongolia's literary heritage and making it available in Mongolia and worldwide. This will open new frontiers in digital inputting, translation, and teaching based on these preserved texts, which hold ideas fundamental to the blossoming of wisdom in our world.



## PROJECT REACH AND POSSIBILITY

The ZBUM project is a meaningful expansion of ALL's preservation partnerships in Mongolia: in the first four months of 2025, our collaborations with the National Library of Mongolia and Erdene Zuu Monastery preserved over 200,000 pages of ancient texts. Now, through the ZBUM initiative, even more of Mongolia's wisdom will be safeguarded and shared globally, for the benefit of the world. ♦♦♦



***ALL and ZBUM work together to safeguard timeless teachings in a modern renaissance of ethics and compassion.***





# Celebrating 20 Years of Preservation and Inspiration in Varanasi

*Two decades of impact and a  
bright future ahead at the Varanasi  
Input Center.*

## 20 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION AND GENEROSITY

This year marks two decades of ALL and the Varanasi Input Center (VIC) working together to preserve and share ancient treasures that may otherwise have been lost. What began in 2005 with three desktop computers and the digitization of a Sanskrit dictionary has grown into a thriving center for manuscript preservation, script training, and learning for new generations.





At this pivotal moment, we extend gratitude to all who support the Varanasi Center, especially the Diamond Love Foundation, which has helped sustain the center for over a decade. As Center Director Santosh Dwivedi reflects, “The word ‘thank you’ feels too small for what ALL and our supporters have given—not just to this center, but to each family connected to it.”

श्री २ हिमस्य ॥ श्री ए

LEARNING, NEW STRENGTH, AND SHARING

Alongside its support for family wellbeing, the Varanasi Input Center has made major advances in preservation. Among the most exciting this year is the launch of a Newari script training course.

Newari scripts, including Prachalit, Rañjana, and Bhujimol, originated in ancient Nepal and were used to write both the Newar language and Sanskrit texts. This spring, the VIC team, consisting of predominantly women operators, took part in a Newari script training focused on Prachalit and Rañjana scripts, opening the possibility of preserving new troves of significant ancient manuscripts.

“This is a turning point,” says Dwivedi, “these are materials we couldn’t preserve before. Now we can protect them—and share them.” The training parallels efforts of the Nagarjuna Institute of Buddhist Studies in Nepal, which completed an advanced Newari Bhujimol script training program to expand horizons for preservation. ALL’s teams are becoming leaders in the global field of digitization!





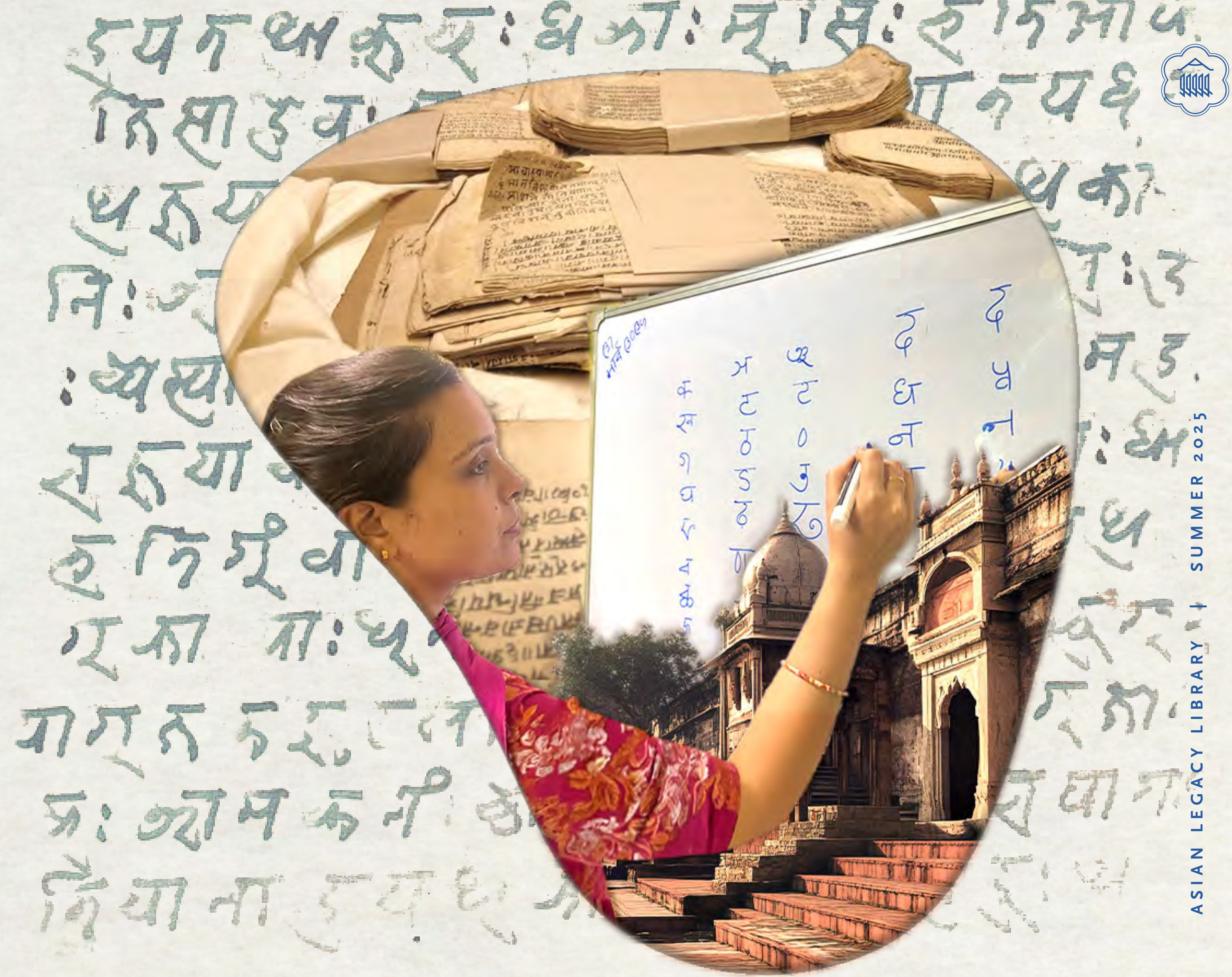
During this special 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, the Varanasi Input Center also hosted ALL's Heritage Management Internship Program with Banaras Hindu University. Since 2022, more than 150 students have been trained in transcription, Roman diacritic transliteration, and digital input. This program allows a new generation to learn all the necessary skills to preserve ancient texts.

॥ श्रीगुरुभ्यो नमः ॥

### LOOKING AHEAD: UPWARD SPIRAL

In the second half of 2025, the team will work on inputting manuscripts in Prachalit for the first time: a striking achievement. And soon, all of the Varanasi center's input will be fully searchable and accessible online via ALL's digital library. ALL's Technology Director, Joel Crawford, explains the key goal is to ensure the texts preserved are "safely stored, archived, and ultimately made available to the public to ensure the longevity of this precious wisdom."

In Varanasi and worldwide, ALL's work is powered by collaboration and a sense of joyful responsibility—to the past, to future generations, and to the ideas contained in texts which can benefit the world. Preservation is a skill and a shared commitment to keep wisdom alive. ♦♦♦



ASIAN LEGACY LIBRARY + SUMMER 2025

*“The word ‘thank you’ feels too small for what ALL and our supporters have given—not just to this center, but to each family connected to it.”*





REVIVING JEWELS OF LITERATURE

# New Horizons in Nepal

*In the Kathmandu Valley, wisdom is  
being kept alive at NIBS.*

## REVERBERATIONS OF WISDOM

Thanks to the high mountains in which the incredible country of Nepal is uniquely situated, Sanskrit and Newari manuscripts have been protected for centuries by everyday guardians of wisdom – hidden to the rest of the world. These manuscripts are a revered part of the fabric of daily life: through the streets of Nepal, you can hear families and children reciting texts on a daily basis, with the understanding that the sound of the precious words they hold can benefit the world.

At the heart of this reverberation is the Nagarjuna Institute of Buddhist Studies (NIBS). In partnership with ALL, NIBS locates and digitally inputs ancient texts, saving them from loss or destruction. ALL and NIBS have gained access to rare palm leaf manuscripts written in Nepal’s most ancient scripts: Prachalit, Rañjana, Bhujimol and others. Texts in these scripts can transmit the wisdom of the original





authors as purely as possible and without the possible alterations of more recent editions.

## गणना ह्यंकन रूपक करबैत नग्न रूप क कीटक नाग गणना

### RARE TEXTS AND UNIQUE SKILLS

ALL and NIBS have the immense fortune that Kiran Shakyas, advanced input operator and text reviewer, is a master in Bhujimol and other Newari scripts. In addition to being a skilled scholar, Kiran is a talented input operator and a good-hearted colleague and teacher. In a milestone for NIBS, Kiran recently offered to share his knowledge of the beautiful and challenging Bhujimol script with the all-women input team at NIBS through an in-depth training program.

Thanks to this training, in spring of 2025, the NIBS team began inputting two essential texts: the Prasannapada, a 7<sup>th</sup>-century commentary on emptiness by Indian philosopher Chandrakirti, and the Bodhicharyavatara, an 8<sup>th</sup>-century treatise on compassion by Master Shantideva: the first text in Bhujimol to be undertaken by the NIBS team. The successful script training carried out by Kiran makes the women at NIBS some of the few in the world who can preserve these ancient texts.

The texts safeguarded at NIBS are identified as preservation priorities by international scholars in dialogue with ALL team member Aisha Skoufalos. Aisha explains, “Our vision is to make these powerful jewels of literature revive in the Nepali culture and provide to more people in the world the writings and priceless teachings kept within them for more than two thousand years.”





## NEXT GENERATION: DREAMS AND DEDICATION

Playing a key role in this vision is Diya Shakya, the niece of NIBS Director Milan Shakya. At just 20 years old, Diya is committed to digital preservation as a life mission. She shares her dream: “It’s very interesting for me to preserve these ancient manuscripts which teach wisdom and right conduct. My aspiration is to become a scholar and to help future generations.”

Together, NIBS and ALL are cultivating a model of cultural continuity—where ancient knowledge is not only preserved, but activated daily through study, action, and shared dedication. We extend a heartfelt ‘thank you’ to the supporters bringing this beautiful vision to life alongside ALL and NIBS! ♦♦♦

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*“My aspiration is to become a scholar and to help future generations.”*

DIYA SHAKYA, NIBS INPUT OPERATOR AND ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR







SEEDS OF WELLBEING

# Health Programs Uplift ALL Centers

*The input teams safeguard ancient manuscripts – and their own precious health.*

## PRECIOUS MISSION, PRECIOUS VISION

Behind every page of a preserved manuscript lies not only skill and dedication, but also the physical and mental wellness of those doing the work. The process of transcribing ancient texts requires long hours of focused attention, visual precision, and cognitive endurance. Recognizing this, the Asian Legacy Library (ALL) takes a holistic approach to preservation—one that values the health of its staff as essential to the longevity and quality of its mission.

For centuries, traditional wisdom traditions have emphasized the deep connection between body and mind. Many texts preserved by ALL worldwide outline practices to sustain mental clarity and visual strength: qualities crucial for all those engaged in the delicate task of manuscript preservation. These trusted practices include dietary guidelines, herbal therapies, and targeted physical exercises to relieve eye strain and support the whole human system.





## WISDOM TRANSFORMING LIVES

In developing programs to support the health of ALL's input teams and the sustainability of their amazing efforts, we draw on the very wisdom preserved in the texts they safeguard – including yoga practices. As Santosh Dwivedi, Varanasi Input Center Director explains, “yoga is definitely giving us more energy to work without any obstacles, and at the end of the day we feel fresh. This practice really changes our professional and personal lives.”

Thanks to the generosity of supporters worldwide, ALL can also offer health care coverage and special eye check-ups for all of the 34 team members in Varanasi and South India, most of whom are women who have committed decades of their lives to ALL's preservation projects.

Across ALL's digital input centers—in South India, Varanasi, and Nepal—daily wellness practices are now fully integrated into the daily work routine. In South India, staff begin each day with yoga and guided eye exercises designed to reduce fatigue and improve focus. Sonam Lhamo, Director of ALL's South Indian centers, explains: “Doing these exercises regularly makes our eyes feel much better and helps us expand our achievements!”

## GENEROSITY: THE HEALTH OF THE SPIRIT

This ongoing commitment to wellness and care is made possible through the generous support of friends around the world. In helping to sustain the health of those saving ancient knowledge, ALL supporters create the conditions for wisdom and wellness to flourish— in ALL's centers, and in their very own lives. You can try these exercises at home, and rejoice in your compassion! ♦♦♦

Seeds of Wellbeing: Health Programs Uplift ALL Centers

### *Try it at Home*

#### ALL EXERCISES TO PRESERVE YOUR VISION!

Refresh and refocus your eyes with a simple thumb-tracking exercise

— a gentle but powerful way to keep your vision strong and clear.

**Thumb Tracking:** Hold your thumb an arm's length away at eye level.

**Horizontal Movement:** Slowly move your thumb left to right, keeping your eyes focused on it without moving your head.  
Repeat 5 times.

**Vertical Movement:** Move your thumb up and down, maintaining focus. Repeat 5 times.

**Diagonal Movement:** Trace a diagonal line from top left to bottom right and reverse. Repeat 5 times.

**Near-Far Focus:** Bring your thumb close to your nose, then extend it back out, shifting focus. Repeat 5 times.



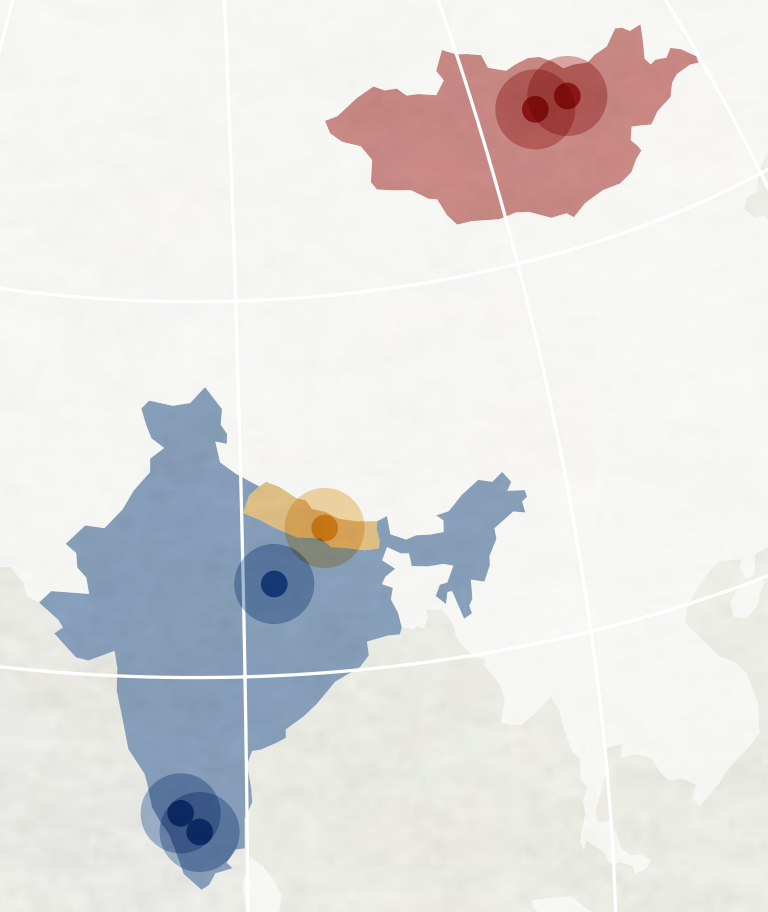




ASIAN LEGACY LIBRARY

# Preservation Map

Learn more about the work of ALL's centers and preservation partners around the world!



NATIONAL LIBRARY  
OF MONGOLIA  
(NLM)

COUNTRY/LOCATION  
Mongolia

NUMBER OF STAFF  
12

LANGUAGE FOCUS  
Tibetan, Mongolian

PRESERVATION FOCUS  
Cataloging,  
Scanning

2025 PRESERVATION TARGET  
500,000 Pages

ERDENE ZUU  
LIBRARY

COUNTRY/LOCATION  
Mongolia

NUMBER OF STAFF  
5

LANGUAGE FOCUS  
Tibetan, Mongolian

PRESERVATION FOCUS  
Cataloging,  
Scanning

2025 PRESERVATION TARGET  
100,000 Pages

ZANABAZAR BUDDHIST  
UNIVERSITY OF  
MONGOLIA LIBRARY  
(ZBUM)

COUNTRY/LOCATION  
Mongolia

NUMBER OF STAFF  
5

LANGUAGE FOCUS  
Tibetan, Mongolian

PRESERVATION FOCUS  
Cataloging,  
Scanning

2025 PRESERVATION TARGET  
50,000 Pages

VARANASI INPUT  
CENTER

COUNTRY/LOCATION  
India

NUMBER OF STAFF  
11

LANGUAGE FOCUS  
Sanskrit, Newari

PRESERVATION FOCUS  
Inputting

2025 PRESERVATION TARGET  
10,000 Pages

HUNSOR INPUT  
CENTER

COUNTRY/LOCATION  
India

NUMBER OF STAFF  
8

LANGUAGE FOCUS  
Tibetan

PRESERVATION FOCUS  
Inputting

2025 PRESERVATION TARGET  
15,000 Pages

BYLAKUPPE INPUT  
CENTER

COUNTRY/LOCATION  
India

NUMBER OF STAFF  
7

LANGUAGE FOCUS  
Tibetan

PRESERVATION FOCUS  
Inputting

2025 PRESERVATION TARGET  
4,000 Pages

TENZIN DICKYE  
LARSOE (TDL) INPUT  
CENTER

COUNTRY/LOCATION  
India

NUMBER OF STAFF  
8

LANGUAGE FOCUS  
Tibetan

PRESERVATION FOCUS  
Inputting

2025 PRESERVATION TARGET  
20,000 Pages

NAGARJUNA  
INSTITUTE OF  
BUDDHIST STUDIES  
(NIBS)

COUNTRY/LOCATION  
Nepal

NUMBER OF STAFF  
6

LANGUAGE FOCUS  
Sanskrit, Newari

PRESERVATION FOCUS  
Inputting, Scanning

2025 PRESERVATION TARGET  
4,000 Pages



*We rejoice in the generosity of ALL friends around the world, keeping wisdom alive.*







SPECIAL SURPRISE

# Happy Birthday to John Brady!

*All of us at ALL worldwide are sending a surprise “Happy Birthday” to John Brady!*

On the joyful occasion of his birthday this June, we honor John Brady – as our trusted ALL President, and as a much-beloved teacher, dedicated practitioner, and the steady guiding force inspiring our mission. Join us in wishing JB a **Happy Birthday this June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025!**

As President of ALL, JB brings together profound inner wisdom and skillful action. His years of leadership in the corporate world shaped a deep understanding of sustainability and long-term impact – yet it is his lifelong devotion to the study and practice of wisdom traditions that gives his work its unique strength and resounding impact.

Under his leadership, ALL has grown into a global network of preservation centers, committed staff, and enduring partnerships. John is always the first to credit others, but we recognize this work—spanning decades and continents—reflects JB’s leadership, care, and perseverance.





To those of us who work alongside him, JB is a mentor and a true friend. His compassion is felt always; his steadiness offers a model of grace in times of change. While sustaining ALL's mission, JB offers his heart to the thousands of students around the world who rely on him.

Today, with gratitude and joy, we celebrate JB's spirit, presence, and vision. Through his tireless and loving work for ALL, we nurture the seeds of wisdom in our world together, for the benefit of all. Thank you, JB, for your humor, insight, and commitment to creating a more beautiful world.

As we celebrate, we extend a warm THANK YOU to our beloved ALL supporters worldwide. We are so grateful for all you do and the ways you help John Brady's mission of preservation and wisdom in action come to life each day in our world. Your generosity is a wonderful gift.

**SURPRISE! Happy Birthday to you, dear JB! ♦♦♦**

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***“This life is such a flash of lightning. It’s a flash of lightning. Don’t lose that possible precious time – don’t waste it. It’s so precious.”***

JOHN BRADY, ALL PRESIDENT

Special Surprise: Happy Birthday to John Brady!







Asian Legacy Library

**Snow on the Mountain:  
Sustaining Wisdom,  
Serving the World**

